

INVESTIGATION OF WAR MATERIALS

NOVEMBER 26 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 18), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MURRAY, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. Res. 195]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the resolution (S. Res. 195) requesting the President to direct an investigation of war materials owned and controlled by the Government of the United States, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with recommendation that it be agreed to by the Senate.

By the end of the war the Government will have on hand an estimated \$75,000,000,000 worth of materials, machinery, factories and other property that have been bought for war purposes. The Congress of the United States is now faced with the responsibility of establishing a national policy on how this tremendous amount of Government property is to be used. The decisions that the Congress makes on this question will be of critical significance in determining not only the level of employment after the war but also the future of small business and competitive enterprise in all branches of the national economy.

At the present moment, however, the inventory control methods of the various war agencies are inadequate to give a full, current picture of the types and amounts of Government property, let alone surplus property. In many cases where an agency may have excellent control techniques, such techniques have not been fully put to use. In those cases where adequate controls are in effect, it will be found that other agencies—or other branches of the same agency—usually follow entirely different procedures and it is therefore impossible to get an accurate over-all picture.

Senate Resolution 195, therefore, calls upon the President to direct the appropriate Government agencies to make a study and investigation with respect to—

1. Government property acquired for, but no longer needed for, war purposes.
2. The adequacy of current records and inventory controls.

3. Improvements needed in Government records and inventory controls.

The President is requested to report to the Congress on these points within 3 months.

The purpose of the resolution is to have the executive branch of the Government start immediately on the job of developing and putting into effect records and controls that will show the complete picture on surplus war property. The information requested is information that is needed by all standing congressional committees with jurisdiction over executive agencies in the possession of surplus war property, by a number of special and select committees and by any new committee or committees that Congress may decide to set up to deal with the problems of war property disposal.

It is essential that the Senate act without delay on the proposed resolution.

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